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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

May 1, 1921.

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Extent of Frost Damage.

Time only can determine the extent to which the fruit crop of the United States, as a whole, has been damaged by the freezes that have occurred at intervals since March 27th. In some sections the injury is known to have been practically 100 per cent, but it is in the territory where reports show 25 to 75 per cent of a crop still on the trees that doubt exists and it will be about a month before a reasonably accurate estimate can be made.

The cooperation of every specialist is sought during the coming month in order that a reliable statement of fruit prospects for the entire country may be made in our June 1st number. See plan for reports in this issue.

Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
and States Relations Service Cooperating.
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C.

May 1, 1921,

Dear Fellow Horticulturists:

Our purpose in sending out the Extension Horticulturist each month is to create a medium for the exchange of ideas relating to horticultural extension work among those engaged in the work. That we have met with a fair degree of success is evident from the many comments and reports we are receiving from the men, most of whom are asking the question, "How is the other fellow tackling the job?"

We have two ways for getting an insight into the methods employed by the state men in conducting their work, 1st, by personal visits and 2nd, through reports and correspondence. Travel is so expensive that it would be impossible for us to get all our information through personal visits so we must depend upon you to tell us what you are doing and how you are doing it. Of course we get your annual reports, but a report often lacks personality which can only be secured through a personal letter or a visit.

Our little list of questions last month on plans of work seems to have struck a responsive chord all around and some good answers have been received. Others we trust are delayed in the mail. Here is one from Arkansas that hits the nail squarely on the head. Mr. Woolsey has been on the work but a short time but has evidently sized the situation up about right. His letter with few omissions follows:

Fayetteville, Ark.,
April 11, 1921.

Dear Sirs:

"I have received the Extension Horticulturist for April 1921, and have examined myself, using the questions found on the front of this pamphlet. I thought you might be interested in having a letter from me telling of my plans and what I am doing. To begin with I am going to answer briefly the questions.

1. Have you a definite plan under which you are conducting horticultural extension work in your state? Answer--I have.
2. Have you found your plan workable and a good plan?
Answer--I have not, and therefore I am reorganizing under a plan which I will later submit.
3. Are you getting results? Answer--Yes, but not satisfactory.

4. Have you talked your plan of work over with the County Agent Leader, the Home Demonstration Agent Leader and the Club Leader? Answer-- I have, and wish to add that I have talked it over with the County Agents, the Farm Bureau Leaders, the Station Horticulturist and various other Station men.
5. Are you sticking close to your pre-arranged plan? Answer--I am, and will, as far as practical in furtherance of the work. I do not hesitate to change minor points if I deem it best.

Naturally, planning work in a state like Arkansas would necessitate the building of extensive outlines which would cover the many phases of the horticultural interests found in the State. My last year's plans were divided roughly into two sections, namely; commercial and home. The program as planned, and which has been started, was to select demonstration orchards and plots in each section of the state covering various points of interest such as cultural methods, spraying, fertilization, pruning, planting, seed selection, etc. Following this plan through, I have selected in this state 20 demonstration plots with the County Agents, and have been working on them this year. These plots cover both home and commercial fruit and truck. My methods of procedure in getting across a certain idea must vary with the section of the State in which I am operating. I have made it a point to do practically no personal service work.

I have found also that the County Agent is flooded with literature on horticultural subjects and that he is unable to get from these the information that is necessary for him in his county, therefore, he falls back on the Extension Horticulturist for minor information which he should be able to handle himself. With this in view, I am planning to write a loose leaf horticultural guide for County Agents which will contain addresses of standard manufacturing companies, standard formulas for the various materials and mixtures. Varieties recommended in each section, directions for packing, and various other important facts.

I note what you say in regard to the itinerary, and I hereby submit a copy of my itinerary for April, which shows the manner in which I handle this proposition. There is one criticism of which I make of my own itinerary, and that is, I do not show the nature of the work to be done.

In regard to zigzag travel, I try, if possible, to avoid this. I try to "ring travel," instead of zigzag, that is, I do not like to make any longer jumps than possible, but work out from the office and back, making as many points in the circle as possible.

The work in Arkansas is just in the first stages of proper organization and I therefore am unable to stay in the office to properly plan, organize, investigate, read and confer on the lines of horticulture. This, I hope to be able to do when the State is better organized. I have tried to select some main projects for the commercial industry of the state which of course must be handled under entirely different plans. The following is a rough plan which I have taken up with our Director and District Agents and I am planning to start operations in July.

1. The state will be plotted by counties to show the needs of each county.
2. The District Agent will take up with each county the proposed plan.
3. If a Farm Bureau is in operation, this will be with their hearty cooperation. The work is divided as follows:

First--Commercial:

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|--------------|------------------|
| (a) Apples | (f) Bush fruits |
| (b) Peaches | (g) Strawberries |
| (c) Pears | (h) Grapes |
| (d) Plums | (i) Pecans |
| (e) Cherries | (j) Truck |

Second--Home Fruit and Vegetable Growing:

Under the above division, the District Agent and myself, in cooperation with the County Agents, will decide how much of each the County Agent will attempt. This will show a definite number of demonstration or advisory plots in each county as allotted, keeping in mind the amount of work done in other lines. For example, I have counties which are only carrying one demonstration home orchard. They ought to be carrying 30 or 40 if handled under the plan which we intend to follow. A County Agent in an apple county may of course specialize on apple plots, or a sweet potato man may specialize on sweet potatoes.

I have in mind to furnish a set of cards similar to those used by Club Agents in signing club members. The grower will sign a card which states that he agrees to grow this crop under the direction of the County Agent and the Extension Horticulturist. These are then filed in the County Agent's office and a copy also filed in my office. These records will furnish a mailing list and a direct means of keeping in close contact with the plots.

During the winter months these counties will be visited and the demonstrators collected in groups at school houses or other convenient places where slides and reels will be given along with instructive lectures on timely suggestions, such as pruning, cultivation, spraying, spray machinery, etc. All of these, of course, will be held in connection with field demonstrations. Along with this, I have planned a reading course for the demonstrators which, if possible, will arrive before the group meeting, and will cover the subjects taken up in the group meeting. This reading course will consist of bulletins (marked) and other timely material.

In the summer time the work will be inspection, demonstration and advisory. I will go into each county and accompany the County Agent to visit each of the demonstrations, staying only a short time at each place. I have planned to have a three copy perforated note book which will have blank spaces for the name of the growers, the county and the crop. The remaining part of the sheet will be blank. On this sheet will be written timely directions such as the formula for bordeaux mixture, formula for grafting wax and various other notes on the general conditions of the orchard with specific directions on what to do and how. One sheet will be torn off and given to the grower, one is filed by the County Agent and the other is filed in my office. This apparently will keep both the County Agent and myself in close touch with the

1. The Commission is composed of the following members:

2. The Commission is organized as follows:

3. The Commission is authorized to do all such things as may be necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

4. The Commission is authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

5. The Commission is authorized to make such recommendations as may be necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

6. The Commission is authorized to make such reports as may be necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

7. The Commission is authorized to make such findings as may be necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

8. The Commission is authorized to make such conclusions as may be necessary and proper to carry out its duties.

demonstrations. At the end of the season record books will be called in and the value of work estimated in dollars and cents.

I do not know whether I have made myself clear or not, but I hope to be able to have this thoroughly worked out by July, at which time I will be glad to give you a complete outline of the same. The principal point, however, in the reorganization as I see it is to get the County Agent definitely lined up with a certain amount of work which by investigation is found to be needed in his county.

I have in mind, along with this organized plan, to run a campaign of some single phase each year. With this in view, I intend to start a campaign this fall for home orchard planting. The result of this campaign may be incorporated in the organized plan, whereby the County Agent may take 10 or 20 home orchards and use them as advisory or demonstration orchards."

Changes in Plans of Work Necessary on Account of Fruit Injury.

Numerous changes in plans for fruit extension work will be necessary on account of the damage resulting from the recent freezes, in fact, it is going to be extremely difficult in certain sections to hold the interest in lines of work that should be carried through, regardless of crop prospects. This is particularly true in localities where leaf diseases are prevalent and continued spraying is necessary to hold them in check. The fact that there will be little or no fruit to handle in certain sections should make it possible to do considerable in the line of renovating neglected orchards. This will be the year to improve the general condition of the trees. Fruit club work will probably suffer most, for with nothing in the way of income in sight, club members will not be inclined to continue the work. An effort should be made, however, to hold the interest in the fruit club work and prepare to double the returns next year.

Whenever temporary changes in the plans of work are necessary, the continuity of the fruit work should always be kept in mind in order to avoid losing a whole year or having to begin all over again. Potato clubs and vegetable gardens might very properly be pushed this year and in many cases these could be made to supplement and carry the expenses of the orchard work.

Very little change will be necessary in the vegetable work as the cold has only necessitated replanting certain crops. The interest in home gardens is very great this year and this phase of the horticultural work is deserving of special attention in sections where the fruit crop is largely destroyed.

Frost Damage to Fruits and Vegetables.

The greatest injury occurred on the lower levels of the Fresno district in California and in the territory extending from Colorado, Oklahoma,

Kansas and Nebraska eastward to the Atlantic Ocean. Northern New Jersey, parts of northeastern Pennsylvania and eastern New York, together with the New England States, were not seriously injured. The same is true of the greater part of Michigan. It is impossible to form a definite conclusion as to the actual extent of the injury until later and in order that we may include in our June 1st number a pretty concise estimate of fruit and vegetable prospects, we would like to have full reports from everyone receiving "The Extension Horticulturist," as to conditions in their own state. This report should be made about the 20th of May, so as to reach us not later than the 25th. We would now advise making the report earlier than the 20th, in order to get it as accurate as possible. By consulting with the leading fruit growers, county agents and others in the state, it will be possible to arrive at pretty definite and reliable conclusions.

INFORMATION WANTED.

We are working on a little bulletin entitled "The Permanent Home Garden" and desire accurate information relative to the localities where rhubarb, asparagus and horseradish can be grown successfully for home use. In states where these crops thrive over a part of the state only, we would like to have the limitations designated. We have the geographic range of these crops pretty well worked out, but would like further information.

Summer Conference.

Plans for holding a vacation-conference of the Horticultural and Pomological workers of the Southeastern States at Virginia Beach, Virginia, July 6th to 12th, inclusive, are being completed. The specialists in one other group of states are contemplating a similar conference at some convenient point. We believe that if this can be arranged, it will result in great good for the work.

Among Extension Workers.

On the morning of April 8th, Mr. Beattie found Prof. R. S. Mackintosh in the class room at the University of Minnesota teaching the high points in horticulture to a group of short-course club boys and girls. Prof. Mackintosh reports splendid interest in fruit and general horticultural extension work in Minnesota. He is now giving about half of his time to the work of the State Horticultural Society, part of his salary being paid by the society.

Mr. H. C. Moore has been placed in charge of the vegetable extension work in Michigan, following the resignation of Mr. C. W. Waid for Farm Bureau work in Ohio. The work with Irish potatoes is important in Michigan, but other phases of vegetable work are receiving attention. Mr. T. A. Farrand has succeeded Mr. J. T. Pickford as fruit specialist in Michigan.

A visit to Lafayette, Indiana on April 11th, found Prof. Greene, Mr. Burkholder, Mr. Gaylord and Mr. Lommel all at the College rearranging plans on account of the frost injury to fruits and vegetables. All report plenty of work to do and the interest on the part of growers most excellent.

W. R. Beattie, Extension Horticulturist

C. P. Close, Extension Pomologist.

